REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 24-75 are all the claims currently pending.

By this Amendment, claims 24, 30, 36, 42, 44, 46, 54, 62, 70, and 73 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II. Response To Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 24, 30 36, and 42-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,184,932 B1 to Tanaka. Claims 46, 48-51, 54, 56-59, 62, 64-67, 70, and 73 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,438,190 to Kaneda et al. (Kaneda). Claims 25-29, 31-35, and 37-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Tanaka (US Patent 6,184,932 B1). Claims 52, 53, 60, 61, 68, and 69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kaneda (US Patent 5,438,190) in view of US Patent 6,556,416 B1 to Kyuma. Claims 47, 55, 63, 71, 72, 74, and 75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kaneda (US Patent 5,438,190) in view of US Patent 5,436,684 to Hirasawa. Applicant respectfully traverses the claim rejections noted above for at least the reasons set forth below.

In the invention recited in claims 24-45, a period at which focus states are detected is changed on the basis of a zooming speed and blurring, which is caused by change of zooming speed, is prevented.

In the invention recited in claims 46-75, a unit driving amount of a focus lens is changed in accordance with a zooming speed.

On the contrary, Tanaka discloses a lens control method that compensates blurring, which is caused by movement of a zooming lens, by moving a compensation lens. In Tanaka, a

precision of a position control of the compensation lens in zooming operation is improved by making a period, at which a position of the compensation lens is detected and is controlled, shorter than a period of V-SYNC at which each image is outputted. The period at which the focus state is detected, however, is constant and is equal to the period of V-SYNC. Therefore, Tanaka does not disclose, teach or suggest that the period at which the focus states are detected is changed on the basis of a zooming speed, as in the present invention.

In Kaneda, moving speed of a focus lens, which is selected on the basis of positions of a zooming lens and focus lens, is changed in accordance with a depth of field and a focus state. The period at which focus states is detected, however, is not changed. Therefore, Kaneda similarly does not disclose, teach or suggest that the period at which the focus states are detected is changed on the basis of a zooming speed.

Therefore, the present invention as recited in claims 24-45 is not disclosed or rendered obvious by either Tanaka or Kaneda.

With respect to claims 46-75, in Kaneda, moving speed of a focus lens is determined on the basis of positions of a zooming lens and focus lens. However, the unit driving amount of focus lens is not changed in accordance with a zooming speed. Moreover, neither Kyuma nor Hirasawa appear to overcome the deficiencies noted in Kaneda to render obvious claims 46-75.

Therefore, the invention recited in clams 46-75 is not rendered obvious over Kaneda in view of Kyuma or Hirasawa.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4494.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4494.

Respectfully submitted,
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